

SOUTH EASTERN CHATHAM DOVER RAILWAY?.

In the Auction Catalogue 1/90 - lot 307, is a registered cover with a SE/CU perfin which Harry Skinner mentions as possibly the first time that this particular perfin has been identified as being used by the South Eastern Railway.

The South Eastern Railway united with the London, Chatham S, Dover Railway on 1st January 1899 and it would appear that the registered envelopes already embossed by the SEK continued in use until stocks were exhausted. However, it would seem that the SE/CD perfin was discontinued earlier than the envelopes and replaced by SE/CH which was probably only in use for a very short while. I feel sure that the CD is an abbreviation of the LC&DR. In August of the same year the two concerns were restyled South Eastern & Chatham Railway which subsequently used SE/CH perfins. An interesting point to note is that the two companies apparently never amalgamated but preserved their independent directorates until the end,

With regard to the perfins, the SEk (vertical type) was no doubt used well into 1899 with the SE/CD filtering in by at least May (date of the cover being auctioned) with the SE/CK revision sometime after August.

by BRIAN SMITH.
